



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY TITLE: INDOOR / IN-ROOM & OUTDOOR VISITATION

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION

POLICY:

To ensure residents and their visitors have safe, protected, and monitored indoor visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, and ensuring an adequate degree of privacy for residents and their visitors. All visits will be based on the COVID-19 status of Unique Rehab. Outdoor visitation is still preferred over indoor when possible.

PURPOSE:

To provide a visitation program that is safe, minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission and as well considering the residents' physical, mental and psychosocial well-being.

PROCEDURES:

Prior to initiating indoor visitation

- Prior to initiating indoor visitation, residents, family members and resident representatives must be informed of the precautions being taken to keep residents safe. The notification should include:
 1. A description of the symptom screening process.
 2. All terms of indoor and outdoor visitation, including mask and social distancing requirements, how to summon staff if needed, and what will cause a visitor to be denied entry.
 3. Steps visitors must take before, upon arrival, and during their visit

When indoor visitation begins

- Appointments are no longer required for visitation.
- Limit indoor visitors to people who can comply with mask and social distancing requirements.
- Children under the age of 18 must always be accompanied by a guardian and must be able to comply with face covering and social distancing requirements.
- Visitors during a given visit can be from a single household or different households.

- Visitors during a given visit must not be allowed to remain on-site and visit multiple residents.
- The duration of the visits at Unique Rehab will not have a fixed time limit but will vary based on the amount of visitors scheduled for the day and the facility's ability to manage traffic and minimize face-to-face passing. Duration of the visits is also determined by how well Unique Rehab can safely accommodate the number of visitors as well as providing adequate amount of staff to ensure safety precautions are monitored and enforced.
- Greet visitors at a designated area at the entrance of the Unique Rehab where a staff member must:
 1. Screen all visitors and service providers.
 2. Perform temperature check and symptom screening.
 3. Visitors must be fever-free, symptom-free, and have no known exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- Visitors must not be under quarantine after non-essential travel to a high-risk state as defined on [coronavirus.dc.gov/phase two](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phase-two), or for international travel to a Level 3 (high-risk) country as defined in the DC Health Travel Guidance.
- Ensure the visitor has a surgical mask covering or an N-95 that does not have an exhalation valve, and ensure the mask covers the visitor's nose and mouth.
- Have the visitor clean their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting Unique Rehab.
- Collect and document visitors' names, phone number, and room number of the person they are visiting and maintain records for 30 days to assist with contact tracing.
- Unique Rehab must be able to provide this information to DC Health within 12 hours of it being requested.
- Staff must escort the visitor to the designated visitation area.
- Visitors are not allowed into any other part of Unique Rehab.
- Deny entry to visitors or service providers who do not pass screening or who refuse to comply with any of the requirements.

During Indoor Visitation

- Visitors will enter through the main entrance and will follow the core principles of infection prevention. Individuals will be denied entry for those displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19, answering affirmative to screening questions or unable to adhere to the core principles.
- Visitors must wear surgical masks or N-95 with no valve during the entire visit and maintain 6 feet from the resident.
- Residents are always strongly recommended to wear cloth face coverings or face masks during the visit, including the transition to and from the indoor visitation location.

- Indoor visitation is limited to a designated visitation location. Visitors must only visit the resident they intend to visit at the designated visitation location.
- The designated indoor visitation room is the Main Dining Room, located in the Lobby Level of the facility.
 - Indoor visitation is limited to areas that allow for appropriate social distancing and must not exceed the maximum capacity limitation of the space.
 - The visitation area must only be used by one group of visitors and the resident at a given time.
 - The visitation area must be reserved for the residents and their designated visitors.
 - The visitation area is ventilated and has specified entries, exits, and pathways that minimize exposure to other residents.

In Room Visitation

Unique will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of Covid-19 infection prevention.

- Resident rooms must only be used for visitation as accommodation for residents who cannot access the area being used for indoor visitation.
- Visits for residents who share a room will not be conducted in the resident's room with other resident physically present, except the resident must have given expressed permission.
- Visits for residents with a roommate who also have a health condition which prevents them from leaving the room, will still be allowed.

If visitation occurs in a resident's room:

- Visitors must not sit or lay on the resident's bed.
- Visitors must treat each roommate as having a separate zone.
 - Visitors must not enter the roommate's zone except as required for entry or exit of the room.
 - Privacy curtains must be drawn to limit direct contact.
- Visitors must not use resident facilities, including restrooms. They will instead be directed to restrooms that are not used by residents.
- Cleaning and disinfection of the room will occur after the visit is completed.
- Unique Rehab will collect and document visitor's full names, phone number, full home address, email and room number of the person they are visiting and maintain records for at least days to assist with any contact tracing.

After indoor visitation

- Have the visitor clean their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon exiting Unique Rehab.

- The space designated for visitation must be cleaned and disinfected between visitors.
- Unique Rehab must clean and disinfect high touch surfaces (e.g., light switches, elevator buttons, door handles) in Unique Rehab at least twice a shift.
- No other residents should be allowed in the area until visitations are completed and the area is cleaned and disinfected.

Consideration for visits to fully vaccinated residents (who are not immunocompromised):

- Physical contact between residents and visitors can occur if resident is fully vaccinated (2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2 dose series, or 2 weeks following receipt of a one dose single dose vaccine).
- Newly admitted or re-admitted residents who have been fully vaccinated will not require any quarantine and will be allowed indoor/outdoor visitation.
- Visitors who want to remove their masks or have close contact during start of visitation must have the ability to verify their vaccination status to the facility by either presenting their vaccination card or provide a doctor note/medical record of their vaccination.
- The resident properly performs hand hygiene immediately before and immediately after touching the visitor. The visitor must also perform hand hygiene immediately before and after touching the resident.
- Visitors must maintain 6 feet of physical distance from other residents and staff in Unique Rehab while visiting.
- Participation in small gatherings, dining and meals with other residents and families can occur; if there are less than 10 individuals all of whom are verified to be fully vaccinated. If all participants are verified to be fully vaccinated, then face mask and physical distancing is not required.
- If any participant in a gathering is unvaccinated or vaccinated status cannot be verified, then all participants must wear a face mask and maintain physical distancing.

Considerations for visits to unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, and immunocompromised residents:

- While alone in the resident's room or the facility's designated visitation room, the resident can have close contact with their unvaccinated visitor while both continue to wear a well-fitting face mask. The safest approach continues to be physical distance and wear face mask.
- While outside, residents and their visitors can choose to have close contact while both continue to wear a well fitted face mask.
- Participation in small gathering events with less than 10 individuals can occur if all individuals wear a face mask and all maintain a physical distance of 6 feet.

- Meals and dining can occur if face mask is worn when not eating and physical distancing occurs.

Visitation during outbreaks

- We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners at DC Health during future outbreaks to determine how best to accommodate residents visitations. During an outbreak, regular activities such as communal dining, non-medical personnel care services, group activities and outings with standard COVID-19 precautions will be permitted for residents who are not on isolation or quarantine.
- Visitors are not required to be vaccinated but encouraged to be vaccinated. Visitors who cannot or don't comply with face covering, social distancing, hand hygiene and other Unique Rehab requirements will not be allowed to participate in outdoor or indoor visitation.

Notification of a COVID-19 exposure

- Unique Rehab must provide all visitors with contact information and additional instructions for notifying the facility should they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of their visit.
- Unique Rehab staff must notify visitors of outbreaks on the unit where the resident resides, should such an event occur within 14 days of a visit, and recommend the visitor(s) seek testing.

Safe Outdoor Visitation

- There will be two locations for outdoor visitation in the facility front courtyard where two tents are located under the large magnolia tree in the facility.
- Outdoor visitation is preferred when the resident and or visitor are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.
- All infection control protocols and screening requirement established for indoor visitation will also apply to outdoor visitation. Hand sanitizer will be located in the facility front courtyard.

Communal Activities, Dining & Resident's Outing:

- While adhering to the core principles of infection control, communal activities, dining and resident's outing may occur. The safest approach is for everyone, regardless of vaccination status to wear a mask while in communal activities.

References:

cms.gov/files/document/quo-20-39-nh-revised.pdf

Screening tools Guidance: coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance

Quarantine after non-essential travel to high risk area: coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo

Coronavirus 2019 (covid-19): Indoor Visitation Requirement for Skilled Nursing Facilities & Assisted Living Residences (last updated: March 12, 2021)

D.C Health Coronavirus 2019 (COVID -19): Visitation Requirements for Skilled Nursing facilities and Assisted Living Residences (last updated: April 25, 2021)

DC Health Coronavirus 2019 (COVID -19): Visitation Requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Residences (last updated: May 03, 2021).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Nursing Home Visitation Revised November 19, 2021. Reference: QSO-20-39-NH